

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-06 /089 W
-----062496 272028Z /50

P 271130Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0691
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LYON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE PRIORITY
RUFJCX /AMCONSUL NICE PRIORITY 0072
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BORDEAUX 0009

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR
SUBJECT: CHIRAC'S DAY IN THE GIRONDE

SUMMARY: RPR PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC SPENT A WHIRLWIND DAY IN THE BORDEAUX AREA JANUARY 25. HE MADE AN APPEARANCE IN MOST OF THE GIRONDE DISTRICTS WHERE AN RPR CANDIDATE WILL RUN, SPOKE AT A LUNCHEON FOR SUPPORTERS AND LOCAL PERSONALITIES AND APPEARED WITH BORDEAUX MAYOR JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS AT A HUGE EVENING RALLY. LOCAL INTEREST CENTERED ON THE CHABAN-CHIRAC RECONCILIATION. FORCEFUL CHIRAC SPEECH AT RALLY FEATURED VIRULENT ATTACK ON MITTERRAND AND CRUCIAL CHOICE OF SOCIETY ISSUE. CHABAN SPEECH EXPLAINED NECESSITY FOR UNITY OF MAJORITY, STRESSED CHOICE OF SOCIETY AND ELOQUENTLY EVOKED DE GAULLE. RPR CROWD, CHEERING BOTH, SHOWED GREATEST ENTHUSIASM FOR CHIRAC. LOCAL OBSERVERS CRITICIZED CHIRAC'S AUTOMATED PERFORMANCE DURING FANTASTICALLY CROWDED DAY'S SCHEDULE.

STARTING WITH A BREAKFAST IN THE 4TH DISTRICT, CHIRAC PUT IN AN APPEARANCE IN EACH OF THE GIRONDE DISTRICTS WHERE AN RPR
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CANDIDATE WILL RUN, EXCEPT THE 9TH OF RPR MINISTER ROBERT BOULIN AND THE 2ND OF CHABAN-DELMAS. HE PRAISED EACH DISTRICT'S CANDIDATE AS THE BEST POSSIBLE.

AT A BORDEAUX LUNCHEON CHIRAC MET CANDIDATES, SUPPORTERS, LOCAL PERSONALITIES AND ME, BUT SPENT MOST OF THE TIME IN AN APPARENTLY HEATED CONVERSATION WITH AYMAR ACHILLE-FOULD,

RADICAL SOCIALIST, WHO IS THUS FAR THE ONLY MAJORITY CANDIDATE IN THE 5TH DISTRICT, AND IN INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH JACQUES VALADE WHO IS ASSISTANT AND "SUPPLEANT" TO JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS. CHABAN WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE LUNCHEON.

CHIRAC S BRIEF SPEECH AT THE LUNCHEON STRESSED MAJORITY UNITY AND CHOICE OF SOCIETY ISSUE. SAID FRENCH HAVE A NATURAL TENDENCY TO DESIRE BI CHANGE EVERY 15 OR 20 YEARS BUT THIS TIME THEY MUST BE MADE TO REALIZE THE AWFUL DANGERS INHERENT IN THE CHANGE WHICH IS OFFERED.

THE EVENING S RALLY AT THE BORDEAUX-LAC EXHIBITION HALL, CHAIRED BY CHABAN-DELMAS WAS ATTENDED BY A FRIENDLY AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD ESTIMATED AT 6,000. THE ARRIVAL OF CHABAN AND CHIRAC TRIGGERED CHANTS OF CHA-BAN, CHI-RAC, A CHANT WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED POSSIBLE BEFORE LAST SUNDAY. CHABAN INTRODUCED AND PRAISED THE RPR CANDIDATES PRESENT ON THE ROSTRUM AND TENDERED THE REGRETS OF MINISTER ROBERT BOULIN WHO WAS OCCUPIED ELSEWHERE. HE THEN INTRODUCED THE DEPARTMENTAL RPR CHAIRMAN, A WOMENS REPRESENTATIVE, A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE AND A LABOR REPRESENTATIVE (A.O.P.), EACH OF WHOM SPOKE BRIEFLY. THE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, JEAN-FRANCOIS BOURAGUET STIRRED THE GREATEST ENTHUSIASM WITH HIS ELOQUENT REJECTION OF "THE SOCIETY OF OPRESSED AND ASSISTED PROPOSED TO US BY THE LEFT."

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RUFJCXAMCONSUL MARSEILLE PRIORITY 0077
AMCONSUL NICE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BORDEAUX 0009

CHABAN GAVE A FORCEFUL AND ELOQUENT SPEECH. HIS INITIAL

WELCOMING OF "THE ACTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RPR" BROUGHT AN OVATION. HE STRESSED THE "IMPERIOUS DUTY OF PRESENTING OURSELVES UNITED BEFORE THE ELECTORATE", AND SAID THAT ANYTHING ELSE WOULD BE A STRATEGY OF DEFEAT.

CHABAN SAID THAT HE HAD LONG BEEN WORKING FOR UNITY "IN THE CORRIDORS" AND, SINCE LAST SUNDAY, WAS DOING SO PUBLICALLY. CHABAN STRESSED THE FATAL CHOICE BETWEEN A FREE AND COLLECTIVIST SOCIETY FACING THE FRENCH ELECTORATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS AND CONCLUDED WITH AN EMOTIONAL EVOCATION OF CHARLES DE GAULLE AND THE SPIRIT OF GAULLISM. THE CHANTS WHICH FOLLOWED CHABAN'S SPEECH WERE STILL CHA-NAN, CHI-RAC AND NOT JUST CHA-BAN.

CHIRAC HAD BEEN BUSY WRITING AND READING DURING ALL OF THE PREVIOUS SPEECHES AND APPEARED NOT TO HAVE LISTENED TO ANYTHING BUT THE BEGINNING OF CHABAN'S, THOUGH HE CLAPPED OCCASIONALLY WHEN EVERYONE ELSE DID.

CHIRAC'S SPEECH GOT UNDERWAY SLOWLY WITH THANKS TO CHABAN AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THOSE WHO HAD ORGANIZED THE DAY'S EVENTS AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE LOCAL CANDIDATES. IT DID NOT WARM MUCH WHEN HE SPOKE OF THE NECESSARY UNITY OF THE MAJORITY WHILE STILL FAVORING MULTIPLE MAJORITY CANDIDACIES IN THE FIRST ROUND.

CHIRAC BEGAN TO HIT HIS STRIDE WHEN HE WENT AFTER THE "COLLECTIVISTS OF THE LEFT" WHOM HE LUMPED TOGETHER. MARCHAIS, HE SAID, AT LEAST LETS ONE KNOW WHERE HE STANDS. BUT MITTERRAND, HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A VIRULENT AND OFTEN PERSONAL ATTACK UPON MITTERRAND WHOM HE ACCUSED OF TRYING TO BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE, WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GARNERING VOTES. HE POINTED TO ABSOLUTE CONTRADICTIONS IN MITTERRAND'S PROPOSALS SUCH AS CURING THE ECONOMY WHILE RAISING WAGES BY 20 PERCENT. HE ALSO STRESSED MITTERRAND'S UNWILLINGNESS TO LET THE VOTERS KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE STOOD ON SUCH ISSUES AS DEFENSE AND NUCLEAR POWER. MITTERRAND, HE SAID, HAS NOW, AS HE HAS ALWAYS HAD, BUT ONE GOAL AND THAT IS TO GAIN POWER FOR HIMSELF. NOW IT IS SUPREME PERSONAL POWER THAT HE IS AFTER AND HE WILL TAKE ANY STAND ON ANY ISSUE AND ASSOCIATE WITH ANYONE IN ORDER TO GET IT.

CHIRAC'S SPEECH ROSE TO A CRESCENDO OF WELL PRACTISED INCANTATIONS AS HE COMPARED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 5TH REPUBLIC WITH THE MESS OF THE 4TH - (INCLUDING MITTERRAND) AND THE DANGERS AND ABSURDITIES OF THE CURRENT PROPOSALS OF THE LEFT. HE CONCLUDED WITH A RINGING TRIBUTE TO GAULLISM AND "THE GENERAL."

CHABAN DID NOT CLAP AT THE CONCLUSION OF CHIRAC'S SPEECH AND WAS NOTED TO HAVE RAISED HIS EYEBROWS A FEW TIMES DURING IT. YVES GUENA, RIGHT HAND MAN TO CHIRAC, WHO WAS SEATED NEXT TO

CHABAN, APPLAUDED HIS CHIEF BUT, THOUGH MAINLY IMPASSIVE DURING OTHER SPEECHES, DID NOT IGNORE THEM.

IN SPITE OF CHABAN'S PRESENCE AND THE EXCITEMENT WHICH ATTACHED
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TO HIS ASSOCIATION WITH HIS OLD ENEMY, IT WAS CLEARLY CHIRAC'S EVENING. THE CROWD'S CHANTS FOR CHABAN SEEMED TO BE OF AFFECTION AND LOCAL PRIDE WHILE THOSE OF CHIRAC WERE MILITANT.

LOCAL OBSERVERS AND PRESS HAVE NOT BEEN TOO KIND TO CHIRAC. THEY STRESS HIS INHUMAN EFFICIENCY AND "AUTOMATIC" OPERATION. THE PRESS ALSO COMPLAINED OF SECURITY MEASURES WHICH MADE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE PRESS TABLE.

THERE WERE NO DEMONSTRATIONS OR CAT-CALLS DURING THE MANIFESTATION. AUTHORITIES, FEARING POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATION, HAD BLOCKED-OFF MAIN ENTRANCE AREA OUTSIDE HALL AND REQUIRED CROWDS TO MAKE LONG DETOUR THROUGH MUD BEFORE GAINING ENTRANCE.MARVIN

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